

(No Model.)

3 Sheets—Sheet 1.

J. A. GUNN.
BILL OF FARE.

No. 479,758.

Patented July 26, 1892.

Fig 1

NAME OF		HOTEL.	
TOWN.		STATE.	
DINNER			
SOUPS		PASTRY	
JULIENNE		APPLE PIE	
CONSOMME		PEACH PIE	
RELISHES		CUSTARD PIE	
SLICED TOMATOES		COTTAGE PUDDING	
RADISHES		DESSERT	
YOUNG ONIONS		ORANGES	
MEATS		RAISINS	
SPARE RIBS		FIGS	
SUGAR CURED HAM		ALMONDS	
ROAST BEEF		DRINKS	
ROAST PORK		TEA	
RIBS OF BEEF		COFFEE	
VEGETABLES		MILK	
MASHED POTATOES		ICED TEA	
SUMMER SQUASH		BUTTERMILK	
GREEN CORN		CHOCOLATE	
TUES.	MAY	23	1893

Fig 2 *Fig 3*

Fig 4 *Fig 5* *Fig 6* *Fig 7*

GREEN CORN

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Witnesses
David P. Potter
R. Whitney

John A. Gunn
Inventor

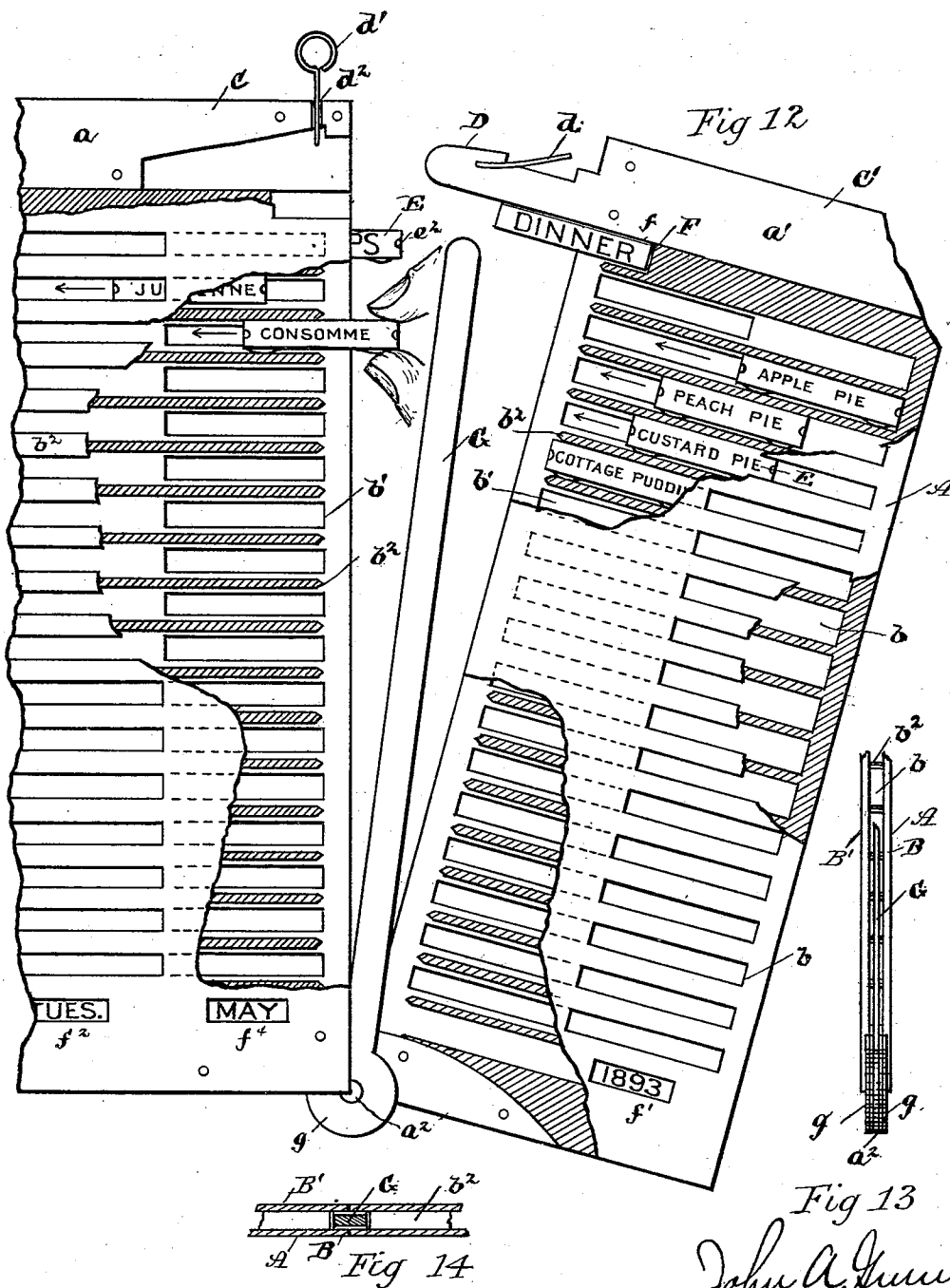
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3 Sheets—Sheet 3.

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Inventor

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

JOHN A. GUNN, OF SPEARFISH, SOUTH DAKOTA, ASSIGNOR OF ONE-HALF
TO ABRAHAM L. MAXIM AND IVOR L. BRIND, OF OMAHA, NEBRASKA,
AND DANIEL C. DWINNELL, OF SPEARFISH, SOUTH DAKOTA.

BILL OF FARE.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 479,758, dated July 26, 1892.

Application filed September 14, 1891. Serial No. 405,659. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, JOHN A. GUNN, a citizen of the United States, residing at Spearfish, in the county of Lawrence and State of South Dakota, have invented a new and useful Bill of Fare, of which the following is a specification.

This invention relates to a new and improved bill of fare, and has for its object the production of a cheap, simple, and highly-efficient bill of fare and order indicator, whereby the articles ordered or desired for each meal can be readily and easily indicated and accuracy in filling or serving the same is insured.

The invention consists, broadly, in forming a bill of fare in two parts or sections and providing the same with a column or columns of openings in front and back and a series of movable blocks having proper designations on their opposite faces, whereby the block indicating the desired article upon being moved so as to be concealed from view on the front face of the board will be exposed through one of the openings in the adjacent column on the other side or face, the blocks appearing on this latter side indicating all the articles ordered for the meal by any one guest.

The invention also comprises the detail construction, combination, and arrangement of parts, substantially as hereinafter fully set forth, and particularly pointed out in the claims.

In the accompanying drawings, Figure 1 is a plan or front view of my improved bill of fare. Fig. 2 is a vertical sectional view on the line $x x'$, Fig. 1. Fig. 3 is a similar view on the line $y y'$, same figure. Fig. 4 is a plan view of one of the blocks or slides. Fig. 5 is a horizontal sectional view thereof. Fig. 6 is an end view of the same. Fig. 7 is a view showing the reverse side of the block or slide to that of Fig. 4. Fig. 8 is an upper end view. Fig. 9 is a view showing the reverse side of Fig. 1. Fig. 10 is a view showing one of the longitudinal side edges. Fig. 11 is a bottom or lower end view. Fig. 12 is a view showing the bill of fare as in Fig. 1 save that the parts or sections are opened and portions are broken away to show the manner of inserting the blocks or slides. Fig. 13 is a vertical sec-

tional view, with parts broken away, of the joint and the retaining bar or arm. Fig. 14 is a transverse sectional view, taken through the meeting edges, of the parts or sections and the retaining-bar.

Referring to the drawings, A designates the main or body portion of my improved bill of fare, which is formed in two corresponding parts or sections $a a'$, pivotally connected together at their lower meeting edges by a hinge a^2 . In the front board B are two corresponding columns of openings b , adjacent to the outer longitudinal side edges of the main or body portion, while in the back board B' are two columns of openings b' , corresponding to the columns b , but adjacent to the meeting edges of the parts or sections $a a'$. Between the openings of each column are transverse bars b^3 , provided with opposite grooved faces. The solid portions of front board B form the backs or bottoms for the columns of openings b' , and, likewise, the solid portions of the back board B' form the backs or bottoms for the front columns of openings b . The openings of columns b are contiguous with and open into the openings of the adjacent columns b' , facing rearward.

Between the upper ends of the front and back boards of parts or sections $a a'$ are secured metallic strips C C' to add strength to the parts. The strip C' of part or section a' is extended into a short arm D, which, when the parts or sections are closed together, projects between the front and back boards B B' of the part or section a , and said parts or sections are held locked together by a plate-spring catch d , projecting from arm D, engaging a shoulder d' of part or section a . A key d^2 is designed to be inserted through a hole d^3 in the top of part or section a to effect the disengagement of spring-catch d when the parts are to be opened, said key consisting of a pin or straight piece of wire, as shown.

In each of the openings in columns b is designed to be placed a block or slide E, which is of oblong shape, corresponding to that of the openings. To one longitudinal edge of each block E is secured a plate-spring e , which in the present instance is shown as being secured at its center and as having free curved ends extending around two of the corner edges

of the block. The free ends of the spring bear against the transverse bars b^2 . In each end of block E is a hole or groove e' , into which is designed to be placed the end of a key E' , by which each block may be moved from the opening of column b into the coincident opening of the adjacent column b' . These blocks have indicated on their front and back faces the names of the different articles composing the bill of fare for any one meal and are divided off into courses under appropriate headings, which are also indicated by periodically-arranged blocks.

In the front board B is an upper central opening F, located at the meeting edges of the parts or sections. Into this opening is placed a block f , indicating thereon the meal for which the bill of fare is given. At the lower end of the front board in part or section a are two openings $f' f^2$, the former exposing a block with the year indicated thereon and the latter a block with the day of the week. Likewise in the other part or section a' are two openings $f^3 f^4$, the former for a block indicating the day of the month, which latter is shown by a block in the opening f^4 . It being necessary to change the blocks indicating the day of the week and month more frequently than those indicating the month and year, they are placed adjacent the meeting edges of the parts or sections, to facilitate the replacement thereof.

G is a long arm, whose hinging plate g forms a part of hinge a^2 . This arm is located between the meeting edges of parts or sections $a a'$ and is designed to fit between the front and back boards B B' and bear against the ends of the transverse bars b^2 to prevent the blocks or slides E of one part or section from falling out while the blocks or slides of the other part or section are being inserted in position. It also limits the inward movements of the blocks or slides.

Upon the back board B', near the upper end thereof, is a block or space h of suitable material, whereon is to be indicated the number of the table and chair occupied by the guest ordering. At the lower end of said back board may be a space h' for the number of the waiter taking the order; but this is not necessary.

The operation or manner of using my improved bill of fare is as follows: The columns of openings b expose to view two series of blocks, whereon are indicated under appropriate course-headings the various dishes or articles composing the bill of fare, said blocks being first inserted while the parts or sections are opened, after which said parts or sections are closed and held firmly united by the spring-catch. The guest in ordering takes key E' , and looking at the bill of fare, as shown in Fig. 1, moves those blocks indicating the desired dishes toward the longitudinal center out of the view he then has. Having indicated his full order by moving the blocks, a view of the reverse side of the bill of fare (see Fig. 9) will display in columns of openings b'

his entire order, the same serving as an accurate guide for filling the entire meal. The blocks after the order is filled can be returned to their normal position by the key E' , and then the bill of fare is ready for the use of another guest.

The advantages of my invention are apparent, and it will be especially observed that the same presents in a neat and safe manner the entire bill of fare and that accuracy in serving or filling an order is insured. It will also be observed that the device is extremely simple and not liable to get out of order and that it can be highly embellished or ornamented to add to its attractiveness.

I claim as my invention—

1. The herein-described improved bill of fare, having front and back boards provided each with a column of openings, the openings of one column being contiguous with the openings of the adjacent columns, and one or more series of indicating-blocks having corresponding names or marks on its opposite sides and capable of being moved from the openings of one column to the openings of the next adjacent column, and thus being visible on the other side of the bill of fare and concealed from view on the side at which first visible, and a pivoted bar or arm adjacent to one of said columns of openings for limiting the movement of said blocks in one direction, as set forth.

2. The herein-described bill of fare, composed of two parts or sections pivotally connected together at their lower meeting edges and capable of being locked together and having front and back boards, said front boards being provided with two columns of openings adjacent to their longitudinal edges and said back boards with two columns of openings adjacent to the said meeting edges of said parts or sections, and two series of indicating-blocks normally exposed to view through the said columns of openings in said front boards, substantially as set forth.

3. The herein-described improved bill of fare, composed of two parts or sections pivotally connected together at their lower meeting edges, a pivoted bar or arm located between said meeting edges, each of said parts or sections having an outer front column of openings and an inner back column of openings contiguous with said former columns of openings, and indicating-blocks capable of being moved from one column of openings to the other or adjacent column, the blocks of one part or section being held in place by said bar or arm while the blocks are being placed in the other part or section, substantially as set forth.

4. The herein-described improved bill of fare, composed of two parts or sections pivotally connected together at their lower meeting edges, a pivoted bar or arm located between said meeting edges, each of said parts or sections having an outer front column of openings and an inner back column of open-

ings contiguous with said former columns of openings, indicating-blocks capable of being moved from one column of openings to the other or adjacent column, the blocks of one
5 part or section being held in place by said bar or arm while the blocks are being placed in the other part or section, and a spring-catch projecting from one of said parts or sections for engaging and locking the other part
10 or section, substantially as set forth.

5. The herein-described improved bill of fare, composed of two parts or sections having each front and back boards with an intervening space, the hinge pivotally connecting
15 said parts or sections together at their lower meeting edges, an arm extending from one of said parts or sections, and a plate-spring secured thereto and designed to engage a shoulder of the other part or section, said parts or
20 sections being provided each with two adja-

cent columns of openings, and indicating-blocks designed to be operated as and for the purpose stated.

6. A bill-of-fare indicator formed in sections and having upper coincident openings at
25 their meeting edges, a meal-indicating block located therein, and lower series of openings with blocks therein indicating the day and date, a column or columns of front openings, a column or columns of back openings adjacent
30 to said former openings, and indicating-blocks located in said front column or columns of openings and capable of being moved into said back column or columns of openings, substantially as set forth.

JOHN A. GUNN.

Witnesses:

DANL. T. POTTER,
R. G. WHITNEY.

It is hereby certified that Letters Patent No. 479,758, granted July 26, 1892, upon the application of John A. Gunn, of Spearfish, South Dakota, for an improvement in "Bills of Fare," was erroneously issued to John A. Gunn, Abraham L. Maxim, Ivor L. Brind, and Daniel C. Dwinnell, as joint owners of said invention; whereas the patent should have been granted to said John A. Gunn and Daniel E. Dwinnell, they being sole owners of the entire interest as shown by the assignments of record in the Patent Office; and that the said Letters Patent should be read with this correction therein that the same may conform to the record of the case in the Patent Office.

Signed, countersigned, and sealed this 9th day of August, A. D. 1892.

[SEAL.]

CYRUS BUSSEY,
Assistant Secretary of the Interior.

Countersigned:

N. L. FROTHINGHAM,
Acting Commissioner of Patents.